



Looking Forward

Each of the key findings builds on the understood qualities of online learning and grounds them in the experiences of learning engaging with Jewish content providers online. The kinds of learning in which they are involved do not resemble those of supplementary schools or summer camps. They are, in some senses, new and emerging forms of learning that have developed organically from the affordances of new technology and the interests of content consumers and creators. They demonstrate new dimensions and new dynamics of learning, and they warrant the attention of Jewish educational professionals committed to better serving learners in the 21st century.

The findings in this report are only the beginning, as the symbiotic relationship between online and offline learning and living are constantly changing and always seem poised for some massive breakthrough. Sooner than we expect, virtual reality, augmented reality, bots, artificial intelligence, smart appliances and the “internet of things” will begin having a profound effect on the ways we live and on the future forms that Jewish life and learning will assume.

Each of these developments introduces new forces into ecologies of Jewish learning and changes our understanding of how people learn and live in relation to Jewish knowledge. *The Future of Jewish Learning Is Here* has offered a glimpse into the ways that online media are shaping what and how people are engaging in Jewish learning and simply going about everyday life. In this new, highly mediated ecosystem, online learning only somewhat resembles its classroom counterpart. Online learning is more diffuse, more distributed, more social, more approachable. It also facilitates relationships, reinforces the rhythms of the calendar, and opens new avenues for inquiry and connection.

This report offers a new approach to Jewish education in this new mediated environment by shedding light on how and what people are learning online. By attending first to the learners and their learning habits, we hoped to uncover some of the important human dynamics that drive online learning. While it is always tempting to focus on the next new technology, we hope *The Future of Jewish Learning Is Here* helps underscore that, ultimately, Jewish online learning happens because of the learners, and those learners are building the Jewish future both online and off.

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The **Jim Joseph Foundation** seeks to foster compelling, effective Jewish learning experiences for young Jews in the United States. Established in 2006, the Jim Joseph Foundation has awarded more than \$500 million in grants with the aspiration that all Jews, their families, and their friends will be inspired by Jewish learning experiences to lead connected, meaningful, and purpose-filled lives and make positive contributions to their communities and the world.